

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of the District Attorney  
FOR THE NORFOLK DISTRICT

Michael W. Morrissey  
District Attorney

1515 Hancock Street  
Quincy, MA 02169  
(617) 769-6100, ext. 130  
(617) 769-6101, (fax)

February 8, 2012

Attorney Harold H Hakala  
15 Court Square  
Suite 1150  
Boston, MA 02108-3507

Re: Commonwealth v. [REDACTED]

Dear Attorney Hakala:

Enclosed please find a letter my office received from the Department of Public Health regarding a possible breach of protocol with respect to some drug samples. While not named in the DPH letter, the chemist being investigated is Annie Dookhan, a chemist who analyzed the substances in our case. It is the understanding of this office that the chemist may have directly taken evidence from the evidence locker for testing without properly signing for the same and/or obtaining the co-signature of the evidence officer.

The substances involved in our case are not among the ninety samples mentioned in the DPH letter. I have not been provided any indication that the testing in our case was compromised in any way. I share with you the letter out of an abundance of caution to notify you of the DPH investigation.

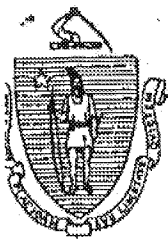
If I receive any further information about this matter I will forward it to you immediately. If you have any questions, please contact me at (617) 769-6100, ext. 130.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Erin M. McFarland".

Erin M. McFarland  
Assistant District Attorney

Enclosure



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Health and Human Services  
Department of Public Health  
250 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108-4619

DEVAL L. PATRICK  
GOVERNOR

IMOTHY P. MURRAY  
DEPUTY GOVERNOR

UDYANN BIGBY, MD  
SECRETARY

JOHN AUERBACH  
COMMISSIONER

February 1, 2012

Michael W. Morrissey, Norfolk District Attorney  
Norfolk District Attorney's Office  
45 Shawmut Road  
Canton, MA, 02021

Dear District Attorney Morrissey,

I am writing to inform you that we are currently investigating a possible breach of protocol with respect to ninety drug samples tested at the William A. Hinton State Laboratory Institute. These ninety samples were received exclusively from Norfolk County and assigned for analysis on the same day. Attached is a list of the control numbers for the samples identified in the investigation.

At this time, there is no evidence that this had an impact on the integrity of the samples or the accuracy of the sample analysis. Please be assured that measures were immediately taken to ensure proper compliance with protocol procedures.

Additional information will be provided upon completion of the investigation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Han".

Linda Han, MD, MPH, Director  
Bureau of Laboratory Sciences